

## RESPONSE

### Restriction Requirement

The application presently stands subject to a restriction requirement for containing claims directed to three inventions, grouped and characterized by the Examiner as follows:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to file allocation, classified in class 707, subclass 205;
- II. Claims 9-24 and 26-30, drawn to pattern matching access, classified in class 707, subclass 6; and
- III. Claim 25, drawn to a fault tolerant computer having a proprietary operating system and support for standards-compliant file operations comprising: two central processing units (CPUs), operating synchronously, classified in class 714, subclass 20.

Applicants provisionally elect Group II (deemed by the Examiner to include claims 9-24 and 26-30), with traverse, expressly reserving the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the remaining non-elected claims present in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. The claims are related, insofar as they are all applicable, for example, to implementing support for standards-based file operations in proprietary operating systems. The elected claims, designated as group II, address a method and article of manufacture for mapping a first file object identifier having a first bit size to a second file object identifier having a second bit size. The group I non-elected claims are drawn to a method for generating a file object identifier. The claims that are designated as groups I and II claims fall within the same class. The group III non-elected claims are drawn to a fault-tolerant computer including an operating system that includes a standards-compliant interface and a proprietary interface.

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of the subject matter of the elected claims should also uncover references relevant to the examination of the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not so unrelated as to constitute such a serious burden on searching and examination as would entail imposition of

Applicant(s): Green et al.

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the restriction requirement. Consideration of claims 1-30 on the merits is respectfully requested.

### **Preliminary Amendment**

Claims 1-30 were pending in the Application. Claims 15, 23, and 26-28 are amended by the present Amendment. Specifically, claims 15 and 23 have been amended to recite "limiting file *object* lengths to at least 128 bytes." Claims 26-28 have been amended to depend from a different claim. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the Specification, for example, at page 3, lines 1-8, and in original claims 26-28. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by the present Amendment. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-30 will remain pending and are presented for consideration.

### **CONCLUSION**

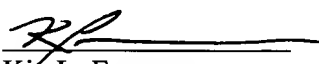
Applicants respectfully request entry of the Preliminary Amendment and Response, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration claims 1-30 on the merits.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application or resolve any outstanding issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at any time during prosecution of this application.

A petition and fee for a one-month Extension of Time for Response is submitted herewith. Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present Preliminary Amendment and Response. However, if any fee is due the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 20-0531.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 12, 2003  
Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP  
High Street Tower, 125 High Street  
Boston, MA 02110  
Tel. No.: (617) 248-7593  
Fax No.: (617) 248-7000  
2616008

  
Kira L. Freeman  
Reg. No. 47,577  
Attorney for Applicants